

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10669 121354Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 OES-09 NRC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02
CEQ-01 IO-13 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 DOEE-00 /117 W
-----106880 121359Z /41

O 121355Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2732

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DEHI 10669

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH IN US MNUC
SUBJECT: NON-PROLIFERATION INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 174235

1. WHEN UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM AND I CALLED ON V. SHANKAR TODAY HE WAS STRANGELY VAGUE ABOUT THE NYE PROPOSALS AND MADE IT APPEAR THAT THEY HAD NOT HAD MUCH CONSIDERATION SINCE THE RETURN OF THE PM'S PARTY TO INDIA. IT WAS AGREED THAT I WOULD CALL ON HIM AGAIN WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO EXPLORE THESE QUESTIONS MORE FULLY.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHO ALSO CALLED ON SHANKAR TODAY, TOLD NEWSOM AND ME THAT HE KNOWS THAT THE INDIAN AEC HAS CONSIDERED THE NOTION OF A HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON SAFEGUARDS AND THAT THE IDEA IS STILL ALIVE. SIR JOHN REPORTS THAT THE GOI HAS IN MIND FLOATING THIS AS INDIAN INITIATIVE, PERHAPS VIA THE MEDIUM OF A LETTER FROM PM DESAI TO THE PRESIDENT, OR CALLAGHAN, OR POSSIBLY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. THE GOI IS REPORTED TO WANT TO INCLUDE IN THE UNDERTAKING GERMANY, JAPAN, AND ONE OTHER LDC (PERHAPS BRAZIL). AS NOW ENVISIONED THE OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE TO
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DETERMINE MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ENSURING THAT NUCLEAR MATERIALS NOT BE DIRECTED TO MILITARY PURPOSES. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT, SIR JOHN HAS TOLD THE INDIANS THAT THE U.K. IS MUCH INTERESTED IN THESE IDEAS BUT FEELS THE NEED FOR A MUCH FULLER DEFINITION OF THE INTENDED SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE BEFORE IT COULD COMMIT ITSELF.

3. I SHALL BE ENDEAVORING TO MEET WITH SHANKAR AT THE
EARLIEST POSSIBLE TO GET A FULLR FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF
ALL THIS, BUT THIS MAY TAKE A FEW DAYS.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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